Starvation Deaths in Tripura

585. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over 450 tribal men, women and children died after eating boiled herbs and roots of forest plants following recent fawine in Tripura's remote hill area as per the report in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 30th December, 1991, entitled "450 died of starvation";

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to prevent the recurrence of famine in Tripura?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) On receipt of the report of the State Government in this regard, inforwation will be laid on the Table of the House.

Poultry Industry in the country

586. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that poultry industry is in crisis in Andhra Pradesh in particular and in the country in general;

(b) if so, what are the causes thereof; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to protect and develop poultry industry in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The poultry industry in the country has been passing through a difficult period,mainlydue to the shortage and high prices of maize, an important feed ingredient.

(c) The following steps have been taken:

(i) State Governments have been requested to intervene to prevent horading of maize by traders.

(ii) NAFED has been asked to procure maize locally and make it available to the poultry sector.

(iii) Steps are being taken for increasing the production of maize in the country.

(iv) It has been decided to allow the import of 4 lakh tonnes waize against exiw scrips.

(v) Financial assistance has been provided to State Level Poultry Corporations / Federations and similar other organisations for streamlining the marketing of eggs and poultry and supply of balanced poultry feed at reasonable prices.

Sale of spurious and sub-standard milk in Delhi

587. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that several fiws are selling milk in polypacks similar to that of Delhi milk Schewe in the Capital .

(b) whether the milk sold by these firms has been found to be spurious and substandard;

(c) if so, whether Government have identified the firms which are selling such milk in the markets;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take to remove confusion about availability of similar milk in the open markets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Amongst others, Director, Prevention of FoodAdulteration, Delhi Administration has been advised to look into the matter.

(c) and (d) The under-mentioned firms were using polypack similar in design to those used by Delhi Milk Scheme (D.MS):

1. M/s. Rinsons (India) Pvt. Lts., Noida, Ghaziabad (U. P.)
2. M/s. Mohit Milk (Rattan Dairy Udyog) Gurgaon, Haryana.
3. M/s. Anand Dairy Ltd., Karnal (Haryana).

(e) The three firms mentioned above were sued in Delhi High Court for using polypack similar in design and colour to those used by Delhi Milk Scheme. During the arguments before the Court it cawe to notice that M/s. NanakFood Industries was also using polypack similar in design to that t of DMS. The Hon'ble Court has directed these firws against marketing of their milk in polypack siwilar in design to that of Delhi Milk Scheme.